(21)

AV4 IT-US 170984

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Origin

Info:

ACTION: Amembassy ROME

INFO : Amembassy PARIS

STATE

CIVAIR

REF STATE 160976

25 MAY 68 00 092

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 25 MAY 1988
RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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1. Informal civair discussions held May 22 between US and Italian groups, led by Assistant Secretary Solomon and Ambassador Ortona, made considerable progress in describing, in general terms, principles each side wants and can accept in new air transport agreement and in indicating limitations and desires regarding routes. General sessions in morning and late afternoon included General Santini and Ing Venturini and CAB Member Minetti and ATA observer Landry. In early afternoon session (without Solomon and Ortona but including other US and Alitalia officials) methods of route evaluation were compared and some data on route values were exchanged.

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2. Principal results of discussions were following:

(a) Capacity. Italians reaffirmed willingness accept Bermuda agreement but with separate minute or understanding giving assurances against excessive capacity. US gave Italians outline of elements USG would find acceptable and unacceptable in such side understanding, covering both passenger and cargo services. US outline included possibility

Drafted by:	Tel. Ext.	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:
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of flexibility on all-cargo routings and special arrangements for developmental period on all-cargo services. In discussion Italians expressed strong preference that combination and all-cargo services be provided for in separate documents, and showed interest in developmental period. US made clear that developmental period should be brief (one to two years suggested) and that agreement should call for full Bermuda after such period. Italians will consider US outline and will respond later.

(b) Evaluation of routes. Italians raised some questions regarding US evaluation techniques but discussions revealed methodology used by both sides is similar and not incompatable. Italians indicated test of equivalent route values acceptable as basis for route exchange but want US to take into consideration that Alitalia might not be able to operate Tokyo route before 1972 and that intermediate countries limit number of frequencies Alitalia can operate. Also keep insisting they cannot evaluate US routes unless points on routes specified. USG will give Alitalia representative (Dr. Bruni) some route value data today and Italians agreed send Bruni back to Washington for talks on route values after USG data studied by Italy.

(c) Routes. Italians repeated desire for route exchange they proposed in May 1967 but agreed drop request for route to Mexico and to drop demand that US route description specify points of departure in US. Italians pressed for additional access points in US, naming Atlanta and Dallas, and showed no give on opposition to US routes beyond Italy to Africa and Australia. They indicated desire add Chicago on route via Montreal and Los Angeles

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to Tokyo. Venturini also tried to get US reaction to Italy withdrawing request for round-the-world route to make possible inclusion of routes to Dallas and Atlanta in addition to Los Angeles.

US officials indicated there is no a priori rejection of any Italian route request but value of routes exchanged must be in approximate balance. In answer to specific question, US made clear that it was unacceptable to add new points to Italian route package and at same time subtract Africa and Australia from US route package; this did not appear to upset Italians.

3. Italians appeared satisfied with discussions and expressed desire meet again after route data is exchanged and analyzed. Memcon on talks being airpouched.

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END

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